

March 2003

Engineer honored for AFCEA contributions

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Eugene C. Blackburn, chief of the Information Technology Division at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate, has been honored for his contributions to the local chapter of the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association, an international professional society.

He was presented with the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Award for 2003 during the 53rd Annual Engineer's Week Awards Banquet of the Mohawk Valley Engineers' Executive Council on Feb. 20.

Blackburn was cited for his service as president of the Erie Canal Chapter of AFCEA since 1998. In that capacity, he has provided the leadership and guidance in sponsoring biannual technical conferences and the annual AFCEA Golf Tournament. The proceeds of these activities benefit a scholarship program that awards about \$6,000 each year to four to six area students.

The goal of the program is to instill confidence in local students that there is a strong engineering and business community in the Mohawk Valley for their employment.

Blackburn has also provided leadership for AFCEA's support of local science fairs and the AFCEA Teaching Tools program, which encourages our elementary and high school students to pursue a vocation in science and engineering.

Blackburn entered federal service in 1974, as a materials engineer at the Naval Avionics Center, Indianapolis, Ind. He continued his materials engineering and research career after transferring to the former Rome Air Development Center in 1981.

A graduate of St. John Fisher College, Rochester, with a bachelor's degree in physics, Blackburn earned his master's degree in management science from State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton. He has also completed a variety of management programs, including Management and Public Policy at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University. @